As or like?

As and *like* are prepositions or conjunctions. The prepositions *as* and *like* have different meanings.

**As** + noun means ‘in the role of’,

**Like** + noun means ‘similar to’ or ‘in the same way as’.

### Compare

| *As* your father, I’ll help you as much as I can. | The speaker is the listener’s father. |
| *Like* your father, I’ll help you as much as I can. | The speaker is not the father but wishes to act in a similar way to the father. |

We use *like* (but not *as*) to compare two things:

*She’s got a headache *like* me.*

Not: *She’s got a headache as me.*

*Like* the other students, *he finds it a bit difficult to get to lectures early in the morning.*

Not: *As the other students, he finds it …*

When we compare appearance or behaviour, we use *like*, not *as*:

*That house looks *like* a castle.*

Not: *That house looks as a castle.*

**As** is commonly used to talk about jobs:

*He worked for a long time *as* a teacher in Africa.*

Not: *… like a teacher in Africa.*

The **conjunctions** *as* and *like* have the same meaning when used in comparisons. *Like* is a little more informal.

*Nobody understands him *as* I do.*

*Nobody understands him *like* I do.*